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Serial No. 09/777,849

BRÖCKER et al.

PF 0000051157

cated woven or knitted fabric. For clarification, applicants have revised the body of the claim to refer to a stage of

shaping a fabricated woven or knitted fabric which is in the form of continuous web goods is shaped to give a package by stacking a plurality of layers thereof of said fabric one on top of the other to give a package, which comprises

cutting segments (S) out of the package, and

assembling them the segments (S) to give one or more course(s) which completely fill the reactor cross section.

The Examiner's reasons for finding that Claim 3 was indefinite should therefore be obviated, and withdrawal of the respective rejection is respectfully solicited.

With regard to Claim 18, the Examiner criticized that the expression "... segments (S) adjacent to one another in each case at their rectangular faces ..." lacked appropriate antecedent basis. Accordingly, applicants have revised the wording of Claim 18 to state that

each of the segments (S) has at least one rectangular face and segments (S) which are arranged adjacent to one another in each case at their rectangular faces are arranged symmetrically to one another with regard to the rectangular face.

The Examiner's reasons for finding that Claim 18 was indefinite should therefore also be obviated, and withdrawal of the respective rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 4 to 17 were included in the rejection by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected claim. In light of the foregoing and the attached, all claims should therefore now be in condition for allowance.

Entry and consideration of the foregoing and the attached is deemed equitable since the respective issues were raised by the Examiner for the first time in the final action. Accordingly, applicants could not have made the changes obviating the issues at an earlier stage of the proceedings. Also, the revisions merely obviate the newly raised issues without changing the claims in a manner which would add new matter and/or which would necessitate a further substantial examination and/or search on the part of the Examiner.

The changes are deemed to place the application in condition for allowance, and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

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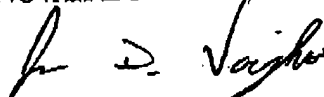
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Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Appendix I)

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